

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

Parks & Recreation Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of September 6, 2012 **Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center**

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Todd Berch, Tony Jaskot, Sheila Jones, Rick Romano and Student Representative Druvi Patel. Director Raymond Santostefano and Superintendent John Milardo, representing the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, there were several members of the public.

Absent: Commissioner Phil Pessina and Student Representative Malcolm Alleyne

Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the main room of the Recreation office, 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140, Middletown.

Chairman Winzer also commented that there was less grant money this year than last year, he reviewed the requirements for the background checks in order for the Youth Sports grant money to be given. Marco Gaylord questioned what type of checks are needed and described the Kids Safe Program that he currently uses. Director Santostefano said that Prof Gallitto did the backgrounds checks following the criteria set from the City and if anyone had specific questions, they could contact him.

Public Hearing: Marco Gaylord spoke on behalf of Middletown Tigers/Cheerleading who submitted a grant request, describing costs and fundraising efforts vs. cost of the program. This program costs approximately \$300-350 per participant. He also indicated the program would like to use Palmer Field for some of it's games. Director Santostefano asked that all grantees call him tomorrow to find out the decisions of the Commission.

Steven Crouch spoke on behalf of Middletown Youth Soccer. There are 1,100 children that participate in this program. He describes the program and the costs associated with it. He indicated that all of his coaches and participants are checked nationally for background checks and would like to send in a list of cleared coaches.

Ron Brown spoke on behalf of Prof Gallitto Boys Basketball. He stated he is concerned about the cut in the grant money. Last year his program paid a significant amount of money for the background checks as required by the City and it wasn't an easy process for him. He hasn't sent out his registrations to participate yet until he hears what

Public Hearing Continued:

his grant award will be. He also stated he has a deficit because of the cost of the background checks from last year.

Harold Panciera spoke on behalf of Prof Gallitto Girl's Basketball. He stated this is a stable program with 125-150 kids, however the grant from the City is necessary.

Heather Iaderosa spoke on behalf of Youth Lacrosse. This is their first application. They had 80 participants and they expect to triple their participation. They will have a Fall program. It costs approximately \$350 per player to participate. They are all city residents and will be forming a girls program this year. Parents pay \$150 for each player.

No one present for the Ahern Whalen program.

Joe Rosenblum from Cub Scout Pack 43 spoke about their annual haunted woods program that they run for the Spencer, Moody and Lawrence Elementary students in their program. They would like to reserve Smith Park on Saturday October 27, with a rain date of October 28 from 2-10 p.m.. They will have between 50 and 75 participants. He explained the program. They have been doing this for more than 10 years.

Ken McClellan from the Council of Veterans spoke about the signs on Veteran's Memorial Green. He would like written guidelines for the sign policy to prevent the appearance of arbitrary decisions on who can put up signs. Commissioner Berch requested that he go to the Ordinance Study Commission.

Chairman Winzer closed the public hearing.

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2012. Commissioner Berch made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Romano.

Vote: The Parks & Recreation Commission minutes of June 7, 2012 were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Director Santostefano read a letter from Greg Post thanking the Parks Division for the upkeep of the Moody School Softball fields. In addition, he read a letter from Theresa Balletto thanking the Parks Division for the work they do on the fields for their program.

Department Reports: Director Santostefano discussed several items with regard to the Parks Division including the cleaning of the tunnel; participation in the fireworks with cleanup, portolets and garbage; Country Club Road spent more than \$23,000 to correct the field deficiencies; Crystal Lake never failed the water quality test this year; NEAT requested work done at Roosevelt Park; repaired Macdonough basketball hoop; screen road repair at Vet's Park; repair boardwalk at Harbor Park; all field are on line and operating except Country Club Road; Vet's Pool was closed on August 24; replaced the boardwalk lights with the BOE bucket truck; stained the boathouse; supported Motorcycle Mania; Zoars

Department Reports Continued:

Pond Mud Volleyball; separated Palmer lights to save money and started to winterize the pool.

Director Santostefano reported that Debbie Stanley has been promoted to Superintendent of Recreation. He reported that the Recreation Division has had trips to the Connecticut Science Center, the Basketball Hall of Fame, Lake Quassy, Lake Compounds, Roller Magic, Bounce U, Destinta Movies, offered a Skyhawks camp, Ray Barnes Basketball, Goran Vasic Soccer Camp (which is very popular), Inclusion programs, 120 kids on the swim team, Late Summer Fun and more. The Fall/Winter brochure is now online and at the printer. 53 kids went to the Chamber Breakfast to see Rudy Gay, we had 7 weeks of regular camp with approximately 400 kids a week which included busing if requested, we offered Before and After care, increased number of weeks of camp to 9 weeks that ended four days before school started with 53 kids per day, the Fall Cruise will be on 10/2/12, we are offering Fall Crew, we have been emailing participants with upcoming events and news. The Governor came for the proposed Veteran's trees at Veterans Park and we are still interested in a reflection pond for this site.

Old Business:

City of Middletown Code of Ordinances Section 214-12. Notices and Signs: Commissioner Berch reported that this is still on the Ordinance Study agenda. Chairman Winzer noted that he has not seen any signs on City property and it looks good. Chairman Winzer relayed that other communities that allow signs on this type of property look sloppy. Commissioner Berch directed Director Santostefano to get the status from the Chairman of Ordinance Study on the issue of the signs.

Renovation of Palmer Field concession stand: Parks Superintendent John Milardo describes the options he has researched on types of trailers for this purpose. The cost is approximately \$80,000. Chairman Winzer suggests a committee be formed of the following participants: T. Berch, J. Milardo, R. Romano and Phil Cacciola. Director Santostefano reminds the Commission that there was approximately \$70,000 in advertising money that was supposed to be used for this purpose, but the Common Council directed it be spent on the Palmer Field renovation, although they acknowledged that the Concession stand was needed and they would support the funding. Commissioner Berch spoke of other departments, such as the Health Department, that would need to be involved in this project.

New Business:

Youth Sports Grant Applications: Commissioner Jones asked about the \$4,000 reduction in the budget for the Sports Grants. Director Santostefano read a series of emails explaining why the money has not been restored. Commissioner Winzer explains the

New Business Continued:

process in allocating money to each program. The Commission asked for approval of the following:

Ahern Whalen: Asked for \$7,500, and are being given \$6,000
 Prof Girls Basketball: Asked for \$3,200, and are being given \$3,200
 Prof Boys Basketball: Asked for \$5,500, and are being given \$5,500
 Middletown Football/Cheerleading: Asked for \$15,000, and are being given \$10,000
 Middletown Youth Soccer: Asked for \$10,000, and are being given \$9,000
 Lacrosse: Asked for \$12,000, and are being given \$2,300
 For a total amount of \$36,000.

A discussion about asking the Common Council to restore the \$4,000 that was taken from this budget insued. It was decided that if the \$4,000 is restored, and additional amount would be given to the following agencies because they were receiving less than they asked for:

Lacrosse: \$2,000 – for a total of \$4,300
 Middletown Youth Soccer: \$1,000 for a total of \$10,000
 Ahern Whalen : \$1,000 for a total of \$7,000

Motion: A motion to approve the \$36,000 grant disbursements as highlighted above by Commissioner Jaskot, seconded by Commissioner Berch. All in favor, passes unanimously.

Motion: A motion if there is a contingency of \$4,000, that \$2,000 would be added for Lacrosse, \$1000 additional for Ahern Whalen and \$1,000 additional for Middletown Youth Soccer made by Commissioner Berch, second by Commissioner Jones. All in favor, passes unanimously.
 Point of interest by Commissioner Romano – Lacrosse plays at Vinal Tech and Lawrence School.

Veteran's Park Renovation: Director Santostefano explains the paving at Walnut Grove Road. Commissioner Berch says he will refuse to pave this road until the renovation of the Park was completed. John Milardo and Director Santostefano agree this is a good idea. The Parks and Recreation Department has previously planned for a renovation at Veteran's Park. Director Santostefano gave a brief overview of the plans that have been submitted by Planning, Conservation and Development. Commissioner Berch indicated he would speak to the Mayor about plans for the park. Chairman Winzer suggested there be a committee for this purpose.

South Green – Union Park Gazebo: Middlesex Hospital wants to put up a tree of lights for the Christmas season. Chairman Winzer would like to allow Director Santostefano to make these decisions in the future. Commissioner Berch indicated he would like everything to come to the Commission for approval.

Motion: Motion to approve Middlesex Hospital's request to put up a tree of lights by Commissioner Berch, second by Commissioner Romano. All in favor, passes unanimously.

Smith Park Irrigation: We have currently spent more than \$28,000 on this project. Electrical issues came up during the work that required an additional \$3,000 of work. The Water Department is performing the testing. The work is completed. Commissioner Berch would like the irrigation system tested every three months, even through the winter.

Motion Motion to allow the Cub Scouts to use the field on October 27, with a rain date of October 28, from 2-10 p.m. as requested by Commissioner Romano, second by Commissioner Jones. All in favor, passes unanimously.

Motion Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Berch, all in favor, passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Bourne

cc: Mayor Daniel Drew